

DISCLAIMER FOR INVOLUNTARY LIEN TRANSFERS AND ABANDONMENT OF PROPERTY TO A LANDLORD

MV2881 2/2013 ss. 342.18(2) and 342.19, Stats.

Wisconsin Department of Transportation

(Combines forms MV2878, MV2879, MV2880, and MV2887)

Transfer of a vehicle pursuant to a mechanic, towing, or self-service storage lien or the abandonment of property to a landlord

- Under Wisconsin law, an eligible mechanic, towing company, or self-service storage operator, referred to as lien holder from this point forward, may transfer a vehicle pursuant to the proper enforcement of an involuntary lien.
- An eligible landlord has the power to dispose of an abandoned vehicle upon the tenant's removal from the leased premises by sale or other appropriate means.
- Any money collected pursuant to an involuntary lien transfer or from the landlord's right to dispose of property must be distributed pursuant to Wisconsin State Statutes and the Uniform Commercial Code.

Get legal advice

The applicant is advised to seek legal advice regarding this process. The applicable law specifies lien holder and landlord eligibility, the notification procedures with which the eligible lien holder or landlord must comply, the associated waiting period, and the means by which the eligible lien holder or landlord may dispose of the vehicle.

The Wisconsin Department of Transportation provides the information on this web site as a convenience to eligible lien holders and landlords. Use of this form by the general public or organizations seeking to obtain a title for an abandoned vehicle is prohibited by law. This page and the application form do not constitute professional legal advice by WisDOT or guarantee eligibility, as circumstances will vary.

Important information

- A vehicle sold and transferred as a result of an involuntary lien or abandonment of property to a landlord will receive:
 - A new certificate of title in the name of the transferee as owner without a secured party listed if there is a lien release submitted with the application.
 - If a lien release is not submitted with the application, the transferee *may* receive a Confirmation of Ownership and the title will be sent to the secured party if the previous owner's lien was listed after July 30, 2012. See www.liens.dot.wi.gov for more information.
 - Only if the transfer constitutes a termination of the original owner's interest or a sale under a security agreement by a secured party named on the certificate of title, under s. 342.17 (2) Stats., shall the new certificate of title be issued free of the secured parties who terminated the original owner's interest and of all secured parties subordinate under s. 342.19 Stats. to such secured party.
- WisDOT is not liable for damages, court action, or denials incurred through the inappropriate or illegal use of the application form. By completing this form, the applicant agrees to hold WisDOT harmless in any related actions.
- The applicant is required to certify his or her eligibility to enforce the lien or dispose of the abandoned property by signing their name on the statement of fact indicating that he or she is an eligible lien holder or landlord, and has complied with the procedures required by Wisconsin State Statutes.
- Falsifying information on this form could result in a fine of up to \$10,000 or imprisonment for up to five (5) years or both.
- If the vehicle is less than ten model years old, the applicant must also submit a completed MV2488 Vehicle Transfer and Odometer Mileage Statement to record the vehicle's mileage. This form may be obtained from a Division of Motor Vehicles customer service center or by contacting the Research and Information Unit directly.

Where you can obtain service

The Research and Information Unit of DMV reviews all applications submitted and may seek legal opinions and court decisions in order to process them. The Research and Information Unit does not have a public access counter but can be contacted by email, phone, or mail. Local Division of Motor Vehicles customer service centers can provide the odometer disclosure statement (MV2488), but cannot answer questions regarding this titling process.

Inquiries can be made by:

Email: vehiclequestions@dot.wi.gov

- The Research and Information Unit may have to conduct research before replying; please allow two business days for an email response. Do not send a second email.
- If the inquiry involves a specific vehicle, please be sure to provide the vehicle identification number or license plate number in your email.

Phone: (608) 266-1466. Calls are answered from 7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday.

Mail: Wisconsin Department of Transportation
Research and Information Unit
PO Box 8070
Madison, WI 53708-8070

I have read and understand the disclaimer above regarding involuntary lien transfers and the abandonment of property to a landlord. I understand how to properly use and complete the [application form](#). (This is an Adobe PDF file).